

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR GLORIA MOLINA

August 3, 2010

Los Angeles County deserves access to the most qualified applicants for the position of Public Defender. During the search for this position, it has come to our attention that according to California Government Section 27701, "a person is not eligible to the office of public defender unless he has been a practicing attorney in all of the courts of the State for at least the year preceding the date of his election or appointment". Other positions comparable to the Public Defender, like County Counsel, do not have such limitations, even though these positions also require the same knowledge and understanding of the practice of law in our state courts. Ironically, this law is so narrow that attorneys with extensive litigation experience who happen not to have practiced within the last year, such as judges, commissioners, magistrates, referees, elected officials or recently retired attorneys, would be precluded from serving if selected, even though they may possess extensive experience of the practice of the law in the courtroom.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE THAT the Chief Executive Officer seek legislation that would amend Government Section 27701 to remove this outdated requirement.

MOTION

Ridley-Thomas \_\_\_\_\_

Yaroslavsky \_\_\_\_\_

Knabe \_\_\_\_\_

Antonovich \_\_\_\_\_

Molina \_\_\_\_\_